

**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2014 9:37 AM  
**Subject:** R6 Daily News Digest, Monday, March 31, 2014  
**Attachments:** Daily News Digest 033114.pdf

**1 – Pipeline backlog expected to ease as Texas backs off pollution fight, Dallas Morning News, 3/28/14**  
<http://www.dallasnews.com/business/headlines/20140328-pipeline-backlog-expected-to-ease-as-texas-backs-offpollution-fight.ece>

For close to 18 months, Mike Heim watched the construction site outside Decatur where his company planned to build a natural gas processing plant sit idle. He was waiting for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to OK air pollution permits.

**2 - Ark. panel to discuss Mayflower oil spill effects, KATV, 3/31/14**  
<http://www.katv.com/story/25116307/ark-panel-to-discuss-mayflower-oil-spill-effects>

A panel discussion set in Little Rock will review how the Mayflower oil spill last year has affected that community so far, which is about 30 miles northwest of Arkansas' capital city.

**3 – White House plans to patch methane leaks, but uncertainty and opposition exist, Climate Wire, 3/31/14**  
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2014/03/31/stories/1059996997>

The Obama administration's effort to plug the nation's methane leaks has rekindled the debate about the role of natural gas in national climate policy, with most environmentalists applauding the effort, while others describe it as an empty promise.

**4 – Report: Oil spill causes damage in embryonic fish, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/27/14**  
<http://theadvocate.com/news/8695254-123/gulf-oil-spill-causes-heart>

Tuna and amberjack embryos developed abnormal hearts after being exposed to oil from the blown-out Deepwater

Horizon well, even at weaker concentrations than were found in the water after the 2010 BP disaster. "The developing fish heart is very susceptible to chemicals found in crude oil," said Nat Scholz, director of the ecotoxicology program with the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center and co-author of a new report.

**5 – Despite Successes, Water Still Vexes San Antonio, Texas Tribune, 3/30/14**  
<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/03/30/despite-successes-water-still-vexes-san-antonio/>

To understand the legendary culture of water conservation that this city has cultivated in the last 20 years, consider that an 11-foot tall model of a low-flow toilet adorns the lobby of its water utility's headquarters. The toilet recently

was the subject of many photo opportunities when a group of more than 80 lawmakers, legislative staffers and water planners toured San Antonio's water facilities.

**6 – Coastal Master Plan would create jobs, revenue, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/30/14**

<http://theadvocate.com/home/8745762-125/coastal-master-plan-would-create>

Fully funding Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan could result in the creation of between 109,000 and 212,000 jobs and

provide at least \$757 million in new yearly revenue for the state and local governments, according to a new report

analyzing the economic effects of coastal restoration efforts.

**7 – Underwater landslide in gulf could cause 15-foot tsunami on Louisiana coast, Times Picayune, 3/29/14**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/03/underwater\\_landslide\\_in\\_gulf\\_c.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/03/underwater_landslide_in_gulf_c.html#incart_river)

Researchers with the National Weather Service say a 15-foot wall of water could roll across Grand Isle if a landslide

occurred in the Mississippi Canyon, a trench in the Gulf of Mexico floor about 30 miles off the mouth of the Mississippi River. And unlike a hurricane, residents would have just an hour's notice -- not days.

**8 - ExxonMobil probes possible gasoline problem in BR, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/29/14**

<http://theadvocate.com/news/business/8738297-123/exxonmobil-investigating-possible-br-gasoline>

ExxonMobil shut down its Baton Rouge terminal gasoline loading racks Wednesday while it investigates a "potential

issue" with fuel being sold at select locations around the city. "We have shut down the Baton Rouge terminal gasoline

loading racks while the investigation continues," ExxonMobil said in a statement. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers and motorists."

**9 - Oklahoma oil industry uses less than 2 percent of state's water, Oklahoman, 3/30/14**

<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-oil-industry-uses-less-than-2-percent-of-states-water/article/3948377>

Four years into a drought that has plagued much of western Oklahoma, the oil and natural gas industry continues to

expand its search for energy locked deep below the dusty surface. Despite the increased oil and gas activity in the

state, oil and gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, still account for less than 2 percent of freshwater use in

Oklahoma, according to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

**10 - Texas regulators hire seismologist to examine injection-linked quakes, Energywire, 3/31/14**

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/03/31/stories/1059997002>

Texas oil and gas regulators, who have been criticized for their slow response to a string of earthquakes, hired a

former staffer from the Los Alamos National Laboratory to serve as an in-house seismologist. David Craig Pearson will

start tomorrow, the state Railroad Commission said in a news release.

**11 – Cleanup in Texas' Galveston Bay falls to barge company, Energywire, 3/31/14**

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/03/31/stories/1059996948>

While an investigation is underway, legal responsibility for the oil spill in Galveston Bay has fallen to the owner of the barge carrying it. A Kirby Corp. barge spilled 168,000 gallons of oil into the bay last week after colliding with a bulk carrier owned by Cleopatra Shipping Agency LTD. If Kirby wants to seek reimbursement from Cleopatra, under the law it will have to do so in court. The company has so far announced no plans to do so.

#### **12 - Lack of water threatens rice farmers, Houston Chron, 3/30/14**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/science-environment/article/Lack-of-water-threatens-rice-farmers-5361958.php#/0>

Brothers Stewart and Kirby Savage should be out right now, planting rice, a crop that their family has grown in Matagorda County for nearly a century. But here they sit, in their low-slung office along Texas 60, talking water, or the lack of it. The Savage family, like many rice farmers, are facing a third year in a row without irrigation water from the Colorado River. That's because Texas officials have cut off deliveries to maintain reservoirs near drought-stricken Austin, more than 100 miles away.

#### **13 - Energy boom stokes population growth west of Mississippi River, Town Talk, 3/30/14**

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/viewart/20140330/BUSINESS/303300027/Energy-boom-stokes-population-growthwest-of-Mississippi-River>

America's energy boom is fueling population growth west of the Mississippi River. New 2013 census information released Thursday shows that 6 of the 10 fastest-growing metropolitan areas and 8 of the 10 fastest-growing counties in the country are located in or near the oil- and gas-rich fields of the Great Plains and Mountain West.

#### **14 - Mayors address funding issues related to Mississippi River, Clarion Ledger, 3/28/14**

[http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20140328/NEWS01/303280044/?gcheck=1&nclck\\_check=1](http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20140328/NEWS01/303280044/?gcheck=1&nclck_check=1)

Mississippi mayors from cities along the Mississippi River have joined others in calling for Congress to support \$400 million in the administration's fiscal 2015 budget to help fund disaster prevention efforts. "Wouldn't it make good sense to have a disaster mitigation fund?" Natchez Mayor Butch Brown said earlier this week. "It would cost less to be prepared and in mitigation mode rather than to come back and be reactive and be at the mercy of so many other extraneous factors after a storm or a drought."

#### **15 - As AG Weighs Plastic Bag Laws, Dallas Passes Its Own, Texas Tribune, 3/26/14**

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/03/26/others-submit-briefs-dallas-passes-bag-ordinance/>

Amid debate over whether plastic bag bans violate the state's health and safety laws, Dallas on Wednesday became the largest city in Texas to pass an ordinance restricting use of the bags. The Dallas ordinance, which the City Council

approved by a vote of 8-6, doesn't ban plastic bags outright. Rather, it limits their use by imposing a 5-cent-per-bag charge on retailers, which will receive 10 percent of the revenue.

**16 - City works on replacing water, sewage lines in Old East Dallas, Dallas Morning News, 3/28/14**  
<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/white-rock-east-dallas/headlines/20140328-city-works-onreplacing-water-sewage-lines-in-old-east-dallas.ece>

There are about 5,000 miles of pipes in the Dallas Water Utilities system, bringing water to residents and businesses.

But in Old East Dallas, some of these pipes need replacing. Many of the aging mains are made from cast iron, which is causing concern in neighborhoods such as Munger Place. Residents there often see discolored water, especially after a rainstorm.

Regards,

---

Joe Hubbard  
Media Relations  
Office of External Affairs, Region VI  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
OFFICE: 214-665-8476  
hubbard.joseph@epa.gov